

Setting up of ultra mega power projects

2052. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trouble is brewing for at least three ultra mega power projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Tadri project in Karnataka may have to be dropped in the face of mounting opposition, the Bhasm project in Orissa is being kept in abeyance till the State Government evinces interest and in Tamil Nadu, the State and the Centre are yet to agree on the project site; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Ministry of Power through Power Finance Corporation is facilitating the Development of a few Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding route through Shell Companies. 7 projects, one each in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh have been identified. In addition, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu have also made a request to locate an Ultra Mega Power Project in their States.

Development of Ultra Mega Power Project is contingent upon requisite confirmation with regard to availability of land and related clearances from the respective States. In this regard, in the sequence of preparedness in respect of first two projects *i.e.* Sasan, Madhya Pradesh and Mundra, Gujarat, process of selection of successful bidder is to be completed by end to December, 2006. Another project where bidding process has been initiated relates to Krishnapatnam Ultra Mega Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh.

Status of reforms in power sector

2053. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although the distribution reforms in the power were ushered a decade ago, the neglect of management of distribution over a long period of time has led to the deterioration in the power sector;